

Tauraroa Area School

www.tauraroa.school.nz

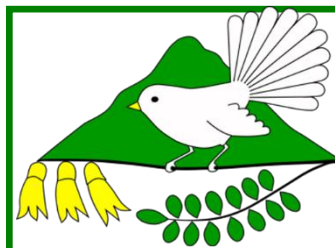
28 January 2022

Phone: 432-2643

Please 'Like' our Facebook page or visit the school website for ongoing updates of school activities.

Calendar 2022

1 Feb	(Tues) First day (Y11-13)
2 Feb	Whole school, with usual bus times. 0900: Whakatau to welcome new students.
7 Feb	Waitangi Day observed
10 Feb	Y12 DVC Maori Design site visit
14 Feb	Vision and Hearing Screening 5:30pm BOT meeting
17 Feb	Y13 DVC Design site visit
21 Feb	Y13 DVC site visit
21 March	5:30pm BOT meeting
24 March	Te Manawa Tahī (Ministry of Education consultation at TAS) (TBC)
7 April	RYDA - Rotary Youth Driver Awareness Workshop (CA)
14 Apr	End of Term 1
2 May	Start of Term 2
5-7 May	DOE Lane Cove silver training (TBC)
16 May	5:30pm BOT meeting
6 June	Queen's Birthday holiday
20 June	5:30pm BOT meeting
24 June	Matariki holiday
8 July	End of Term 2
8-12 July	DOE Waitakere Ranges silver practice
25 July	Start of Term 3
15 Aug	5:30pm BOT meeting
12 Sept	5:30 BOT meeting
30 Sept	End of Term 3
17 Oct	Start of Term 4
24 Oct	Labour Day
31 Oct	5:30pm BOT meeting
9-11 Nov	Y4-6 camp Mangawhai
5 Dec	5:30pm BOT meeting
9-14 Dec	DOE gold qualifier tramp
9 Dec	End of Term 4



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From the Principal's Desk

Kei aku nui, kei aku rahi, tēnā koutou katoa i roto i ngā āhuatanga o te wā.

Welcome back after what I hope has been a wonderful summer for you and your whānau.

Our staff have been back at school this week, processing enrolments, undertaking a range of professional development courses and preparing lessons and classes.

First Day Arrangements

We look forward to welcoming Year 11-13 students to school on Tuesday (1 February) and **all students to school on Wednesday**. New students are asked to gather at the front of the school when they arrive (by 8:45am). Returning students will be directed to gather on the school field for our mihi whakatau. If it is wet, new students will be directed to the school gym and returning students will proceed to their whanau roopu classes. Unfortunately, we are unable to invite parents (other than parents of junior primary or special needs students) to accompany their children onto the school grounds in the current COVID response setting.

Timetables will be available to students and parents prior to Tuesday via school email. Year 11-13 students are to attend on Tuesday to confirm their courses with their deans and subject teachers.

We have welcomed many **new staff members** to our team this year:

Teacher (Year 3, fixed term): Hollie Brotherhood

Learning assistant (Trades): Beaudene Bucknell

Head of Social Sciences: Ian Callachan

Head of Technology and teacher of Digital Technology: Delilah Edmonds

Library manager: Tessa Edwards

Special Needs Coordinator (SENCO): Tashina Hingston

Associate Principal: Helen Kinsey-Wightman

Music and Primary release: Naomi Neumann

Head of English: Brenda Rudolph

Library assistant: Sue Tomich

Head of Drama (fixed term): Debi Walters-Brown

Music (singing): Karla Galley

We are delighted to host Ashley Sattler in R9 (with Paula Ashcroft) on her teacher training practicum for significant periods throughout the year.

During the summer, Year 4 teacher, Emer Quinn, made the difficult decision to resign from her position. The recruitment process is now underway, with a high quality field of applicants available. Emer's last day will be 23 February.

Julie Grindle also decided it was time to 'call time' on her work as a teacher aide at the school. Julie is very well known in the community and will be missed. Her work with students - and behind the scenes organisation of events such as our Kowhai trip and Country Day - over the course of twenty years has made a huge contribution to the running of the school.

Changes in responsibilities:

Julie Chaplin is now our teacher in charge of Gateway and STAR programmes, in addition to her duties as Y13 Dean and Head of Careers.

Christine Allan is our new Year 12 Dean

Andrea Cameron has resumed her former role as Head of Sport

COVID-19

We have moved fully into the new traffic light framework for school activities and events this year. Under the Red setting the school will remain open as long as we have sufficient available staff. School safety measures include:

- Well ventilated rooms
- Using good personal hygiene practices
- Provision of hand sanitiser
- Regular cleaning of work surfaces
- The wearing of masks in classrooms and buses for teachers and students from Year 4 upward
- Restricted access to the school site for essential people only, with tracer-app sign in and mask wearing.
- Limited access to the foyer to one visitor (or whānau) at a time
- People who are unwell or close contacts of COVID patients are to stay home, following the relevant isolation and testing requirements

Parents will not be allowed to enter the school grounds, unless they are essential to student learning, have a meeting with a staff member or need to visit the school office (make payments, etc). The parents of junior primary students may bring their children to the classroom on their first day. Otherwise, we ask parents to drop their children off outside of the school gates.

Although vaccination is an important element in protection from COVID-19, *students are permitted to attend school regardless of vaccination status.*

Ask an expert: COVID-19 immunisation for 5 to 11-year-olds

Manatū Hauora – Ministry of Health are holding a Facebook live event for parents and whānau to get accurate and reliable information about COVID-19 immunisations for 5 to 11-year-olds. The live event is happening today Thursday 27 January - tonight - at 7.30pm. Panellists include: Dr Lily Fraser, GP and Clinical Director at Turuki Healthcare, Dr Hinemoa Elder, MBChB, FRANZCP, PhD, MNZM, Dr Teuila Percival, QSO FRACP, Dr Jin Russell, Community and Developmental Paediatrician at Starship Children's Health.

[Join the Facebook event here https://govt.us3.list-manage.com/track/click?u=2f59fcd18a691d315b5a045cb&id=bcb55c971d&e=4bbdc79829](https://govt.us3.list-manage.com/track/click?u=2f59fcd18a691d315b5a045cb&id=bcb55c971d&e=4bbdc79829) (be sure to click 'going' or 'interested' to be notified when this be sure to click 'going' or 'interested' to be notified when this event starts.

Events and Activities

Large gatherings, especially when indoors, continue to pose a risk. We have therefore reviewed all our events and activities for the upcoming term to ensure we meet the Red requirements. Unfortunately, this has meant the **cancellation of a number of events in**

Term 1:

- **our annual community hangi**
- **all overnight trips and camps**
- **Waka toa (tabloid sports)**
- **Athletic sports** (postponed to Term 4)

Omicron and Testing

We are very likely to see cases of the Omicron COVID variant in our community in coming weeks. While Omicron is more transmissible than previous strains, most people who get COVID-19 will have a mild to moderate illness and will fully recover in their own home.

However, some of our community who are immune compromised, are ill or have other vulnerabilities, even when they are fully vaccinated, could be more affected by Omicron. So, we all need to continue to play our part to minimise the spread of the virus.

We ask our school community to follow current government guidance with COVID testing if you are showing COVID symptoms or are a close contact of a patient.

If you are symptomatic or need to be tested to access a workplace or service, you will be guided at the time on which test (PCR or RAT) is best for you.

Face Coverings

Staff and children in Years 4 – 13 must wear face coverings when inside at school when we are at Red.

Public health advice is that an appropriate face covering will fit snugly and seal well around facial contours. This can include single use, disposable masks (medical masks) and re-usable fabric masks with three layers.

Don't worry if you don't have these specific types of face coverings, as public health experts also say that any face covering is better than no face covering.

The Unite Against COVID-19 website also has information on [how to make a face covering](#).

For those of you with children who might be reluctant to wear a face covering, there is some [helpful advice from Michigan Health](#), including using simple, specific explanations about why they need to wear a face covering, adults being the role models, providing small rewards for wearing them, bringing face coverings into play such as drawing face coverings on characters in colouring books, or letting them choose/make the mask.

Managing Cases in our School

We have a good contact tracing system in place so that if there is a confirmed case who has been at school while infectious, we can quickly identify who was a close contact of that person. We will then quickly advise those contacts of what they need to do.

Only if the Ministry of Health or the Ministry of Education advises to do so, would we consider closing a physical onsite school and moving to distance learning for everyone. At Red we will keep everyone learning onsite for as long as we can.

Please make sure your contact details we have on file are up to date, so we can get in touch with you if needed.

Preparing for COVID-19

You can also prepare for COVID-19, making sure you and your household have a plan and know what to do. This will mean your whānau and community can help each other if needed. Find out more here:

- [Be prepared for COVID-19](#)
- [Download the COVID-19 Readiness Checklist \[PDF, 121 KB\]](#)
- [What to expect when self-isolating at home](#)

Self-Isolating at Home because of COVID-19

Many people will be able to manage self-isolation with help from friends and whānau, but there is help available if you need it – both with health support and access to food and other essentials.

- [What to expect when self-isolating at home | Unite against COVID-19 \(covid19.govt.nz\)](#)
- [Getting extra support if you have COVID-19 or are self-isolating | Unite against COVID-19 \(covid19.govt.nz\)](#)
- [COVID-19 positive – managing your symptoms | Health Navigator NZ](#)

If you know anyone in your community affected by COVID-19 and who may need help, such as food and other financial assistance, Work and Income has a range of [supports available for individuals, families, employers and self-employed people affected by COVID-19](#).

Work and Income Support

The beginning of the year can be a tough time for parents who are faced with many costs and it is important you are aware of what assistance you may be able to get from Work and Income. These are available to people on a low income as well as those on a benefit.

[Check what you might get here](#)

- [School costs](#)
- [Out of School Care and Recreation \(OSCAR\) Subsidy](#)
- [Other Childcare Assistance](#)
- [School and Year Start-up Payment](#) (for people getting Orphan's Benefit or Unsupported Child's Benefit)
- [Help with living costs \(including food and rent/mortgage\)](#)

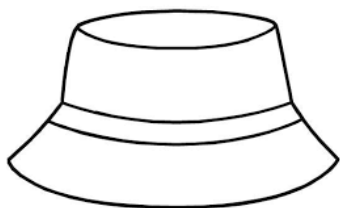
Use the links above or call 0800 559 009 to find out more, or to apply.

MoneyTalks can assist with [free budgeting and debt help](#). You can also contact your local community provider. [Please find more information here](#).

Getting Ready to Return to School

The Ministry of Education has some helpful information on their [Parents and Whānau website](#) to support your tamariki to get back to school. There is also a very important reminder about how you can [take care of yourself](#).

We are also here to help. Please get in touch if you have any concerns or need help in any way, don't hesitate to contact us on 094322643.



HATS

Hats are compulsory for year 0-8 students (and recommended beyond that) when outside. Those without a hat must remain in a covered area.

Cricket, Intermediate Hockey, Netball

We will shortly be underway with sign-ups for hockey and netball (signup sheets are at the office). The cricket season kicks off again shortly and we welcome new players.

As an added detail, TAS has not had an intermediate hockey team, but we are hoping to grow the sport in our kura to feed our players through to senior level hockey at TAS. There will be more details in the notices about intermediate hockey very shortly, with some intermediate hockey trials at lunchtimes on the 17th and 18th Feb. The intermediate netball trials are on the 15th and 16th Feb. Senior netball trials will in all likelihood be held the following week, on the 22nd and 23rd Feb but this will be confirmed.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Do you have a few spare hours each week? Would you like to contribute to the education of our local tamariki?

House of Science, a Charitable Trust providing science resources to primary and intermediate schools in the Whangarei region, is looking for volunteers to assist with the implementation of this programme. Roles include stockroom assistants (cleaning & restocking science resource kits) and delivery drivers (own car required; generous mileage allowance paid).

These roles are based at TAS so a Covid Vaccination Certificate is mandatory and a Police Vetting check will be required.

For further information, please contact Janine at Janine.Burns@Houseofscience.nz or phone school 432 2643